BY BOB ROZAKIS & STEPHEN DE STEFANO
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WINTER SPECIAL
ALSO FEATURING THE WORK OF
CRAIG BOLDMAN
KARL KESEL
STEVE LEIALOHA
TRINA ROBBINS
DESTEFANO / KESEL

'Mazing Man
Winter Special
~by~
BOB ROZAKIS and
STEPHEN DeSTEFANO
• JUAN AND CARLOS TIRADO ARE ACCUSED OF SHOPLIFTING -- CAN MAZE SOLVE THIS "MINUTE MYSTERY"?
inks by:
TRINA ROBBINS
• DENTON'S MORNING OF PEACE AND QUIET TURNS INTO A "WORK/OUT"!
inks by:
CRAIG BOLDMAN
• SOME FAMILIAR FACES DISCOVER THEY ARE NOT JUST "STRANGERS ON A TRAIN"!
inks by:
KARL KESEL
• WILL IT BE "BAH, HUMBUG" OR "HO HO HO" WHEN GRANDMA CRASHES THE "CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE"?
inks by:
STEVE LEIALOHA
Lettering by:
JANICE CHIANG
coloring by:
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BARBARA RANDALL
G-3370

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AMAZING MAN'S
MINUTE MYSTERY
IT'S A TUFFY, TOO!
RRRR
WOOF! RUFF! WOOF!
RUFF
WOOF! WOOF! WOOF! WOOF!
C'MON, CARLOS--IT'S MY TURN.
'KOFF! JUST A MINUTE, STUPID.
OH, MAN--GET RID OF IT QUICK!
THERE YOU ARE! I WILL BE HAVING YOU ARRESTED!
MAMA!
VAMOS, JUAN. VAMOS, CARLOS.
JINGLE JINGLE JINGLE
WHAT? ¿QUE PASA, SEÑOR BIRNBAUM?
I WILL BE CALLING THE OFFICER CALLAHAN IF YOU DO NOT RETURN THEM RIGHT NOW.
SEE WHAT A GREAT SHORTCUT THIS IS? IT'LL SAVE US TWO MINUTES GETTING TO THE MOVIE THEATER!

MINUTE MYSTERY
WE'RE IN TROUBLE NOW, PUMMO.
IT'S ALL YOUR FAULT, JERKO.
I WILL BE HAVING THESE BOYS PUT INTO JAIL IF THEY DO NOT CONFESS.
WHAT'S GOING ON?
THESE BOYS HAVE STOLEN THE KEYS TO MY STORE.
MY CHICOS ARE NOT ROBBERS. DON'T YOU ACCUSE THEM.
WAIT!
SO MUCH FOR SAVING TIME WITH THIS SHORTCUT.
SO WE'LL MISS A COUPLE OF CINEMATIC BLOODBATHS, WHO'LL KNOW THE DIFFERENCE?
BE RETURNING MY KEYS IMMEDIATELY!
WE AIN'T GOT YOUR KEYS, MAN.
YEAH, YOU WANNA DO A STRIP SEARCH?
A THIEF SHOULD HAVE HIS HANDS CUT OFF. THAT IS WHAT WE DO IN MY COUNTRY.
GEE, MR. BIRNBAUM, THAT MUST GET AWFULLY MESSY.
JINGLE! JINGLE!
THEN YOU ARE BEING THE JUDGE. I WILL BE PROVING THAT THEY HAVE STOLEN MY KEYS.
YOU WILL SEE THAT THEY SHOULD BE PUNISHED.

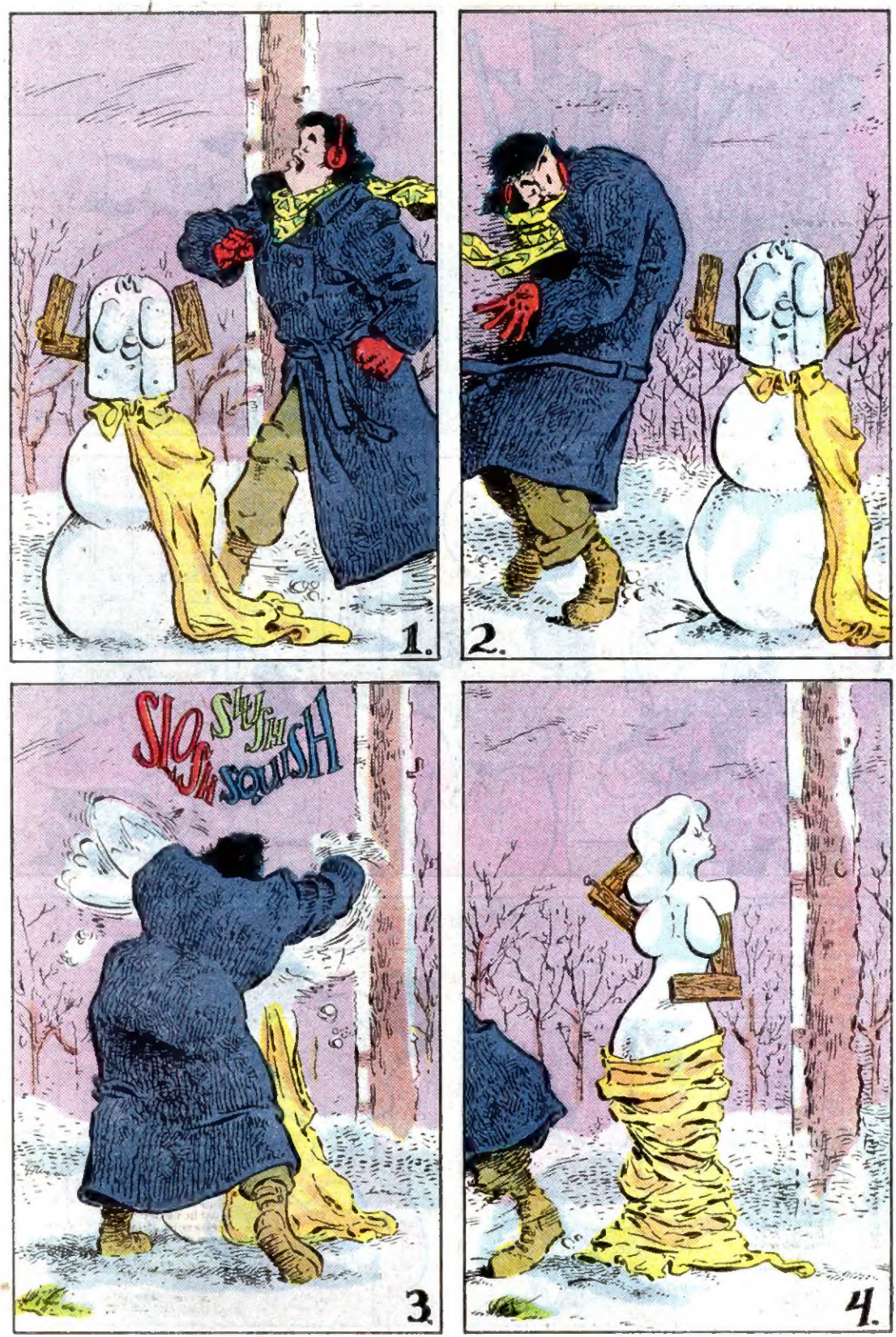
MINUTE MYSTERY
"KOJAK" TYPE LOLLY
WHAT DID YOU DO, CHICOS?
NUTHIN', MA. WE DIDN'T DO NUTHIN'!
HE'S JUST PICKIN' ON US!
FIRST WE MUST BE SEARCHING THE AREA. I WAS SEEING THEM THROW MY KEYS AWAY WHEN I AM COMING AFTER THEM.
OKAY, LET'S LOOK AROUND, EVERYBODY. SEE WHAT YOU CAN FIND.
"ULP"
WOW--LOOK AT THIS! I HAVEN'T SEEN ONE OF THESE ARMY MEN IN YEARS.
NEITHER HAS ANYBODY ELSE, SHERLOCK. HOW'S ABOUT YOU KEEP SEARCHING SO WE DON'T MISS THE ENTIRE MOVIE.
'EY, BIRNBAUM, YOU OUGHTA KEEP AN EYE ON WHO YA GIVE MATCHES TO. ONE O' THESE DAYS, SOMEBODY'S GONNA START AN ACCIDENTAL FIRE OR SOMETHIN'.
DID YOU SAY "MATCHES", GUIDO?
CONCLUDED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING

MINUTE MYSTERY
YEAH, HELMET-HEAD, WITH BIRNBAUM'S CANDY STORE PRINTED ON 'EM. SEE?
THERE'S NOTHING HERE THAT HASN'T BEEN HERE FOR MONTHS, MAZE--
HMMMM.
--EXCEPT THIS "EVIDENCE" THAT SOMEBODY KICKED THE SMOKING HABIT HALFWAY THROUGH A PACK.
WAIT!
THEY SHOULD BE CONFESSING... OR BE IN THE JAIL.
MY CHICOS ARE NOT ROBBERS.
LET'S HAVE A TALK, FELLAS.
BZZZ BZZZ BZZZZZ
JUST AS I THOUGHT. SEE WHAT TELLING THE TRUTH WILL DO, BOYS?
THE BOYS ARE INNOCENT, MR. BIRNBAUM.
I AM NOT BELIEVING IT.
LET'S GO BACK INTO YOUR STORE AND I'LL PROVE IT.
YEAH, LET'S MOVE IT, BABE. WE'RE KINDA WORKING AGAINST THE CLOCK, OKAY?
WOOF!
WOOF!
WOOF!
WOOF!

MINUTE MYSTERY
OKAY, IN ORDER TO PROVE MY POINT, WE HAVE TO REENACT THE CRIME. WHERE WAS EVERYBODY AT THE TIME?
MAGAZINES CANDY COMICS
OPTIMO
BIC BANANAS 99¢
I BE TELLING YOU THE MOST IMPORTANT FACT, THAT MY KEYS WERE RIGHT HERE.
NO ONE WAS BEING IN THE STORE BUT THESE THIEVES AND THEIR MOTHER.
HEY KIDS! COMICS
TLINGA LINGLE?
LET ME SHOW YOU SOMETHING. WATSON, YOUR KEYS, PLEASE.
'EY, THIS IS BETTER THAN A MOVIE.
PAPER Dolls
MR. BIRNBAUM, YOU SAY THE KEYS WERE RIGHT HERE?
THEY WERE BEING ON THAT EXACT SPOT.
FREE!
MAT
MR. BIRNBAUM, PLEASE STAND WHERE YOU WERE. SEÑORA TIRADO, IF YOU WOULD, TOO.
MATCHES
Bazo
I WILL PLAY THE PART OF JUAN AND CARLOS... EVEN THOUGH THERE IS ONLY ONE OF ME.

MINUTE MYSTERY
EVERYBODY IN POSITION? OKAY.
KA-JINGLE!
JINGLE! CHINGLE!
YOU SEE, THIS TIME I BE HEARING YOU AS YOU TAKE THE KEYS. YOU BE PROVING MY POINT, 'MAZING MAN.
SUPERBALL 10¢ WATCH 'EM BOUNCE
THE KEYS, THEY ARE BEING GONE.
FREE MATCHES
I HAVE TO DISAGREE, MR. BIRNBAUM. NO ONE HAS TAKEN THE KEYS.
MATCHES
YOU ARE MAKING A JOKE. WHAT IS IT YOU ARE HAVING IN YOUR HAND?
THESE.
WHILE I WAS SWIPING THIS BOOK OF MATCHES, MY SLEEVE BRUSHED THE KEYS OFF THE COUNTER--
--AND THEY ENDED UP HERE.
FREE MATCHES

MINUTE MYSTERY
YOU SEE, JUAN AND CARLOS WANTED THE MATCHES SO THEY COULD GO OUT IN THE ALLEY AND SNEAK-SMOKE THESE CIGARETTES.
MMMMMM.
HI, MA.
MOLLY COLD'S
SMOKING! A FEELTHY HABIT! WAIT TILL YOUR FATHER HEARS.
SO YOU HAVE PROVED THEY DID NOT STEAL MY KEYS, BUT MY KEYS ARE STILL BEING GONE.
TAP TAP TAP
THEY ARE NOT BEING ON THE FLOOR.
ELEMENTARY, MY DEAR, MR. BIRNBAUM. ONE MEMBER OF THE CAST WAS NOT IN POSITION WHEN I REENACTED THE CRIME: HELENITA.
JINGLE JINGLE ALING!
CORRECT ME IF I'M WRONG, SEÑORA, BUT I WOULD SURMISE THAT HELENITA WAS IN HER STROLLER, PARKED RIGHT BY THE COUNTER.
AND GUESS WHAT LANDED IN HER LAP WHEN HER BROTHERS GRABBED THE MATCHES?
JINGLE!
'NITA OPEN DOOR?
I BE APOLOGIZING. THESE ARE BEING BETTER FOR YOU THAN CIGARETTES.
GRACIAS, SEÑOR BIRNBAUM.
DAILY NEWS
Long Island Press
'EY, DOLL, SEE WHAT GREAT DETECTIVE WORK CAN DO?
GOOD THING I SPOTTED THEM MATCHES AND BROKE THE CASE OPEN, EH?
THE END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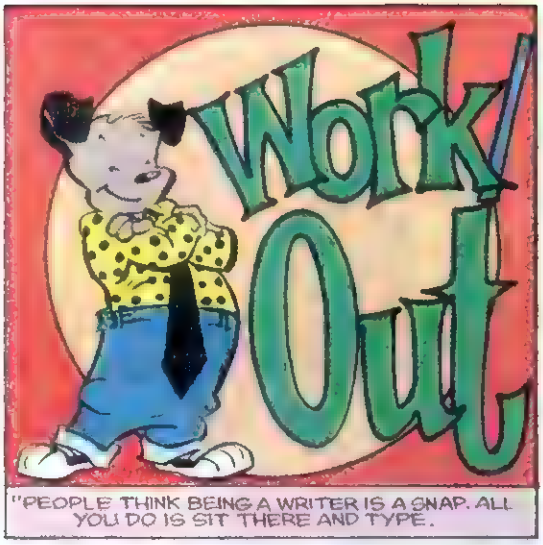
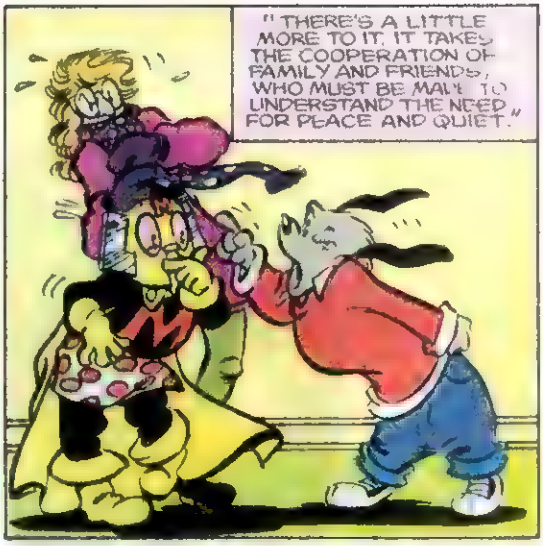
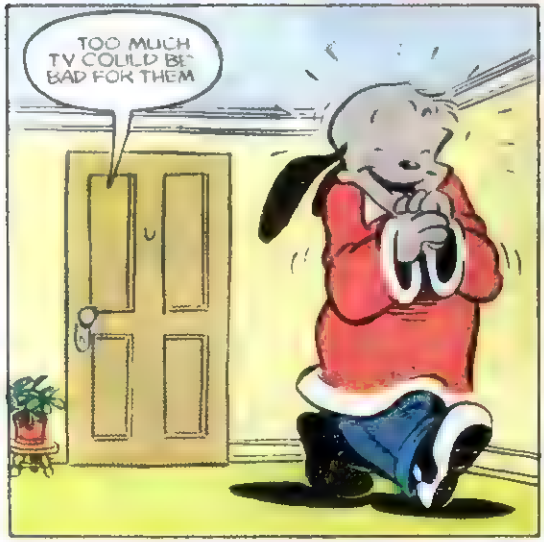
2.
SLOSH SLOSH SQUISH
3.
4.

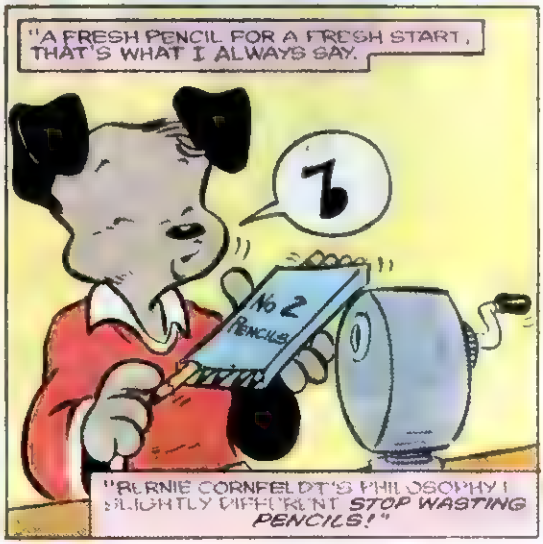

Work Out
"PEOPLE THINK BEING A WRITER IS A SNAP. ALL YOU DO IS SIT THERE AND TYPE.


"THERE'S A LITTLE MORE TO IT. IT TAKES THE COOPERATION OF FAMILY AND FRIENDS, WHO MUST BE MADE TO UNDERSTAND THE NEED FOR PEACE AND QUIET."

I CAN TAKE A HINT. IT'S TIME FOR MY EXERCISE REGIMEN ANYWAY
IT'S SUPPOSED TO SNOW, DENTON. I THOUGHT I'D STAY HOME AND WATCH WOODY WOODPECKER CARTOONS WITH MY SEA MONKEYS

ON THE OTHER HAND...


TOO MUCH TV COULD BE BAD FOR THEM


"A FRESH PENCIL FOR A FRESH START, THAT'S WHAT I ALWAYS SAY.
No 2 PENCILS
"BERNIE CORNFELDT'S PHILOSOPHY! SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT. STOP WASTING PENCILS!"

"OF COURSE, MECHANICAL DEVICES DON'T UNDERSTAND THEIR ROLE IN MAKING THINGS EASY FOR THE CREATIVE MIND...

EEK SQUEAK!

CREAK!

"...BUT WE MUST LEARN TO BE TOLERANT...

".. OF LIFE'S LITTLE ANNOYANCES...

Jiggle Jiggle Jiggle Jiggle

"...EVEN WHEN THEY SEEM TO MULTIPLY

YANK

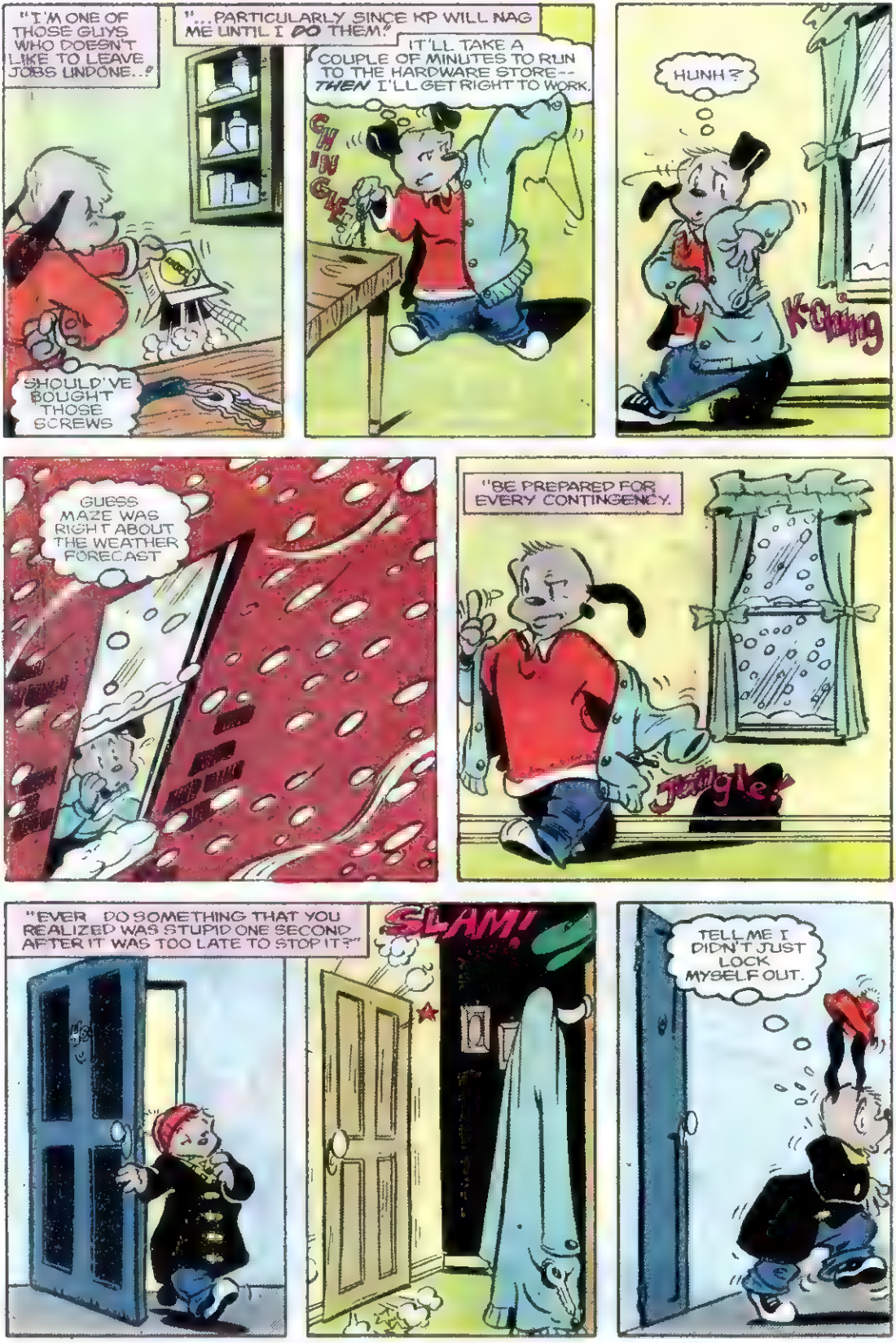
TWANG

ZOWIE

"...AND MULTIPLY!"

ZIP

UH OH


"I'M ONE OF THOSE GUYS WHO DOESN'T LIKE TO LEAVE JOBS UNDONE..."
"...PARTICULARLY SINCE KP WILL NAG ME UNTIL I DO THEM."
IT'LL TAKE A COUPLE OF MINUTES TO RUN TO THE HARDWARE STORE-- THEN I'LL GET RIGHT TO WORK.
CHINGLE
SHOULD'VE BOUGHT THOSE SCREWS
HUNH?
K-Ching
GUESS MAZE WAS RIGHT ABOUT THE WEATHER FORECAST
"BE PREPARED FOR EVERY CONTINGENCY.
Jingle!
"EVER DO SOMETHING THAT YOU REALIZED WAS STUPID ONE SECOND AFTER IT WAS TOO LATE TO STOP IT?"
SLAM!
TELL ME I DIDN'T JUST LOCK MYSELF OUT.

"IN TIMES OF CRISIS, IT'S BEST TO KEEP A COOL MIND"
I HATE YOU! I HATE YOU! I HATE YOU!
NOW WHAT?
"THERE ARE LOTS OF THINGS I HATE ABOUT LIVING IN AN APARTMENT BUILDING, BUT AT THE MOMENT I CAN THINK OF ONE GOOD THING--
"HAVING A LANDLADY DOWNSTAIRS WHO HAS THE KEY.
"OF COURSE, THIS GOOD THING IS MUCH BETTER IF THE LANDLADY HAPPENS TO BE IN!"
MRS. COSTINAS
KNOCK! KNOCK! KNOCK!
HIYUH THERE, MR. FIXX. GOT SOME MAIL FOR YOU
I'M NOT LUGGING ALL OF MAZE'S MAGAZINES UPSTAIRS, WOLINSKI
IT'S WARWINSKI, MR. FIXX, AND IT'S NOT THE MAGAZINES, IT'S THIS LETTER FROM CON EDISON. THEY'RE GOING TO SHUT OFF YOUR ELECTRICITY.
AND HOW WOULD YOU KNOW THAT? BEEN READING MY MAIL WITH YOUR X-RAY VISION?
Con Edison ha ha ha ha!
Miss K.P. Watson 50 Richmond Pk NY 11240
UHH, NOPE. JUST CALL IT "MAILMAN'S INTUITION"!
"I HATE IT WHEN GUYS LIKE HIM ARE RIGHT."
OMIGOSH!"...UNPAID BILL...SERVICE CUT-OFF... PAYMENT BY THE 14TH..." THAT'S TOMORROW!

THIS IS RIDICULOUS! I PAID THAT BILL! I WROTE THE CHECK. I EVEN REMEMBER TAKING IT TO MAIL!
UHHH...
THE STUPID POST OFFICE MUST'VE LOST IT!
...ACTUALLY, MR. FIXX, YOUR POSTAL REPRESENTATIVE HAS JUST FOUND IT!
CON ED
UM...UH... WELL... SO, WOLINSKI, OLD PAL, PERHAPS YOU CAN ARRANGE FOR IT TO BE DELIVERED BY TOMORROW?
"NEITHER RAIN NOR SNOW..." AND ALL THAT STUFF? PRETTY PLEASE?
CAN'T MAKE A PROMISE I CAN'T KEEP, MR. FIXX. AND IT'S WARWINSKI.
WHATEVER.
OF COURSE, THERE IS EXPRESS MAIL, OUR GUARANTEED OVERNIGHT DELIVERY SERVICE, AVAILABLE AT YOUR POST OFFICE
"I JUST LOVE THE SYSTEM.
U.S. POST OFFICE!
"OF COURSE, THE SYSTEM WILL LOVE YOU, TOO--IF YOU REMEMBER TO BRING MONEY."

"MONEY THAT'S WHY GOD INVENTED BANKS. SO WE COULD GO SOMEPLACE TO GET SOME.
BANK
"I JUST LOVE BANKS, ALMOST AS MUCH AS I LOVE THE POSTAL SERVICE, CON EDISON, AND LIVING IN AN APARTMENT.
"THERE'S THAT WARM, PERSONAL SERVICE YOU GET."
PLEASE STAY THERE, SIR, UNTIL YOU DRY OFF A BIT. THE SLUSH WILL RUIN THE RUG.
WOOF!
OH, MR. FIXX, DIDN'T RECOGNIZE YOU. HOW IS YOUR FRIEND, MR. HUNCH?
EDDIE! I WAS HOPING YOU'D BE IN.
HIYA, PAL
I'M IN A BIND, ED. I NEED MONEY. YOU'VE GOT TO HELP ME OUT.
SORRY TO HEAR THAT, DENTON. JUST FILL OUT THESE FORMS.
LOAN FORMS

"FOR THE SMARTEST GUY I KNOW, EDDIE SURE CAN BE A DIM BULB SOMETIMES."

I NEED THE MONEY *NOW!* NOT NEXT YEAR!

DENTON, I CAN'T BEND THE BANK'S RULES, EVEN FOR MY BEST FRIEND.

BANANA-BRAIN--I WANT TO BORROW SOME CASH FROM *YOU!*

OH. WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY SO?

"AREN'T FRIENDS GREAT?

BANK

"ISN'T EXPRESS MAIL A REMARKABLE INVENTION?

SLUSH SLUSH SLUSH SLUSH SLUSH SLUSH

HANK'S HARDWARE

"DON'T YOU JUST LOVE HAVING A HARDWARE STORE AROUND THE CORNER?"

FOOSH foosh foosh foosh

"PUFF PUFF PANT PUFF"

SLUSH SLUSH SLUSH SLUSH

GRUNT
PUFF PANT
SLUSH SLUSH SLUSH
GRUNT
PUFF PANT
"OUR LANDLADY IS SO MARVELOUSLY COOPERATIVE...ALWAYS THERE WHEN WE NEED HER.
NEW!
Ka-Clunk Ka-Clunk
"BOY, THERE'S NOTHING LIKE A LITTLE WORKOUT TO GET THOSE CREATIVE JUICES FLOWING.
"NOW, PEACE AND QUIET, ALL'S RIGHT IN THE WORLD.. AND I'M GOING TO TURN OUT A MASTERPIECE!"
YOO-HOO!
HOPE YOU'RE DONE WORKING. I'M NOT GOING OUT IN THAT SLOP AGAIN.
YOU KNOW, PENTON, YOU SHOULDN'T STAY COOPED UP SO MUCH. YOU SHOULD GET SOME FRESH AIR AND EXERCISE!
THE END!

1.

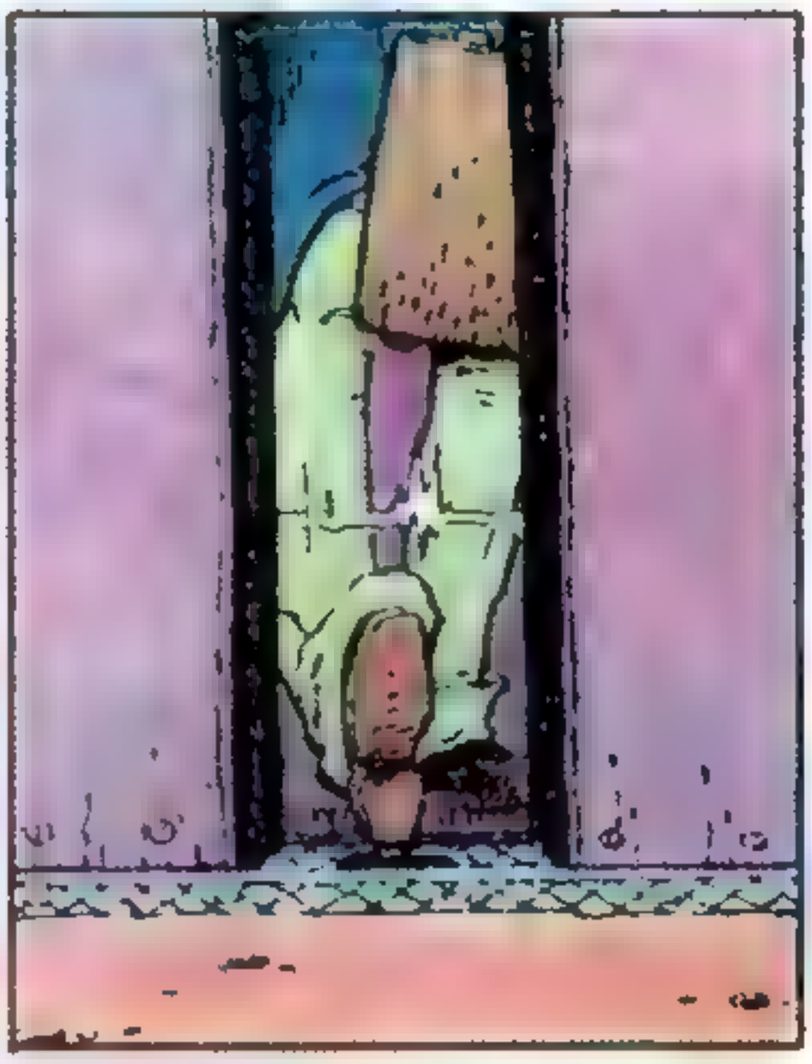
2.

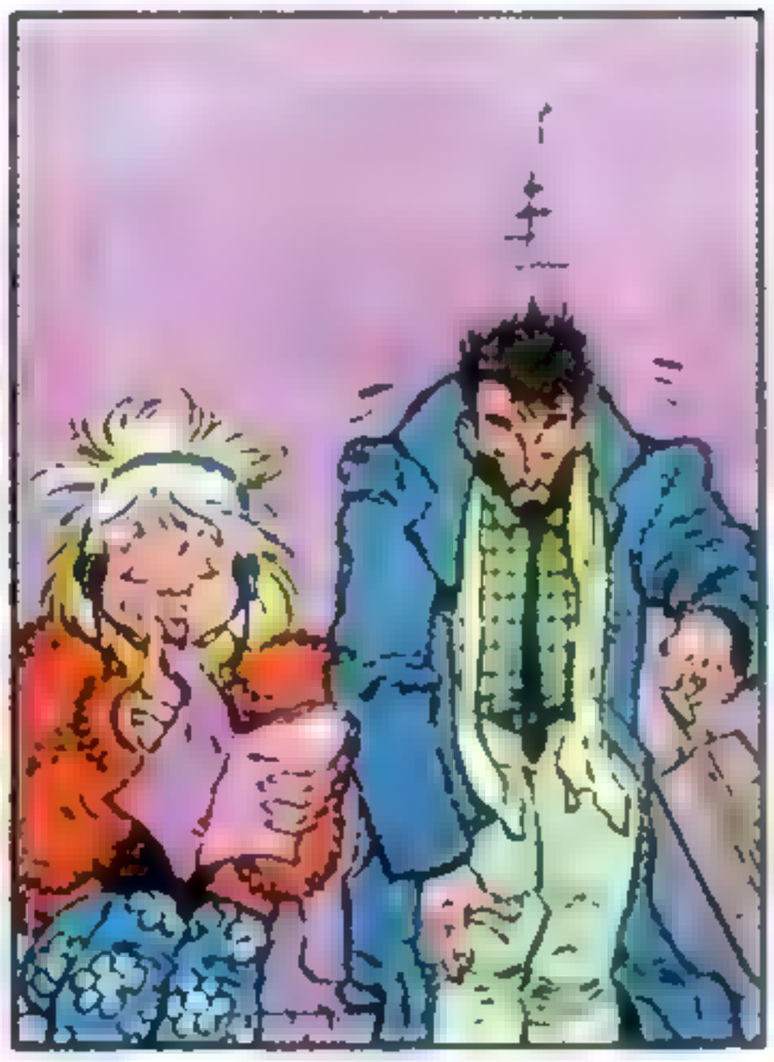
3.

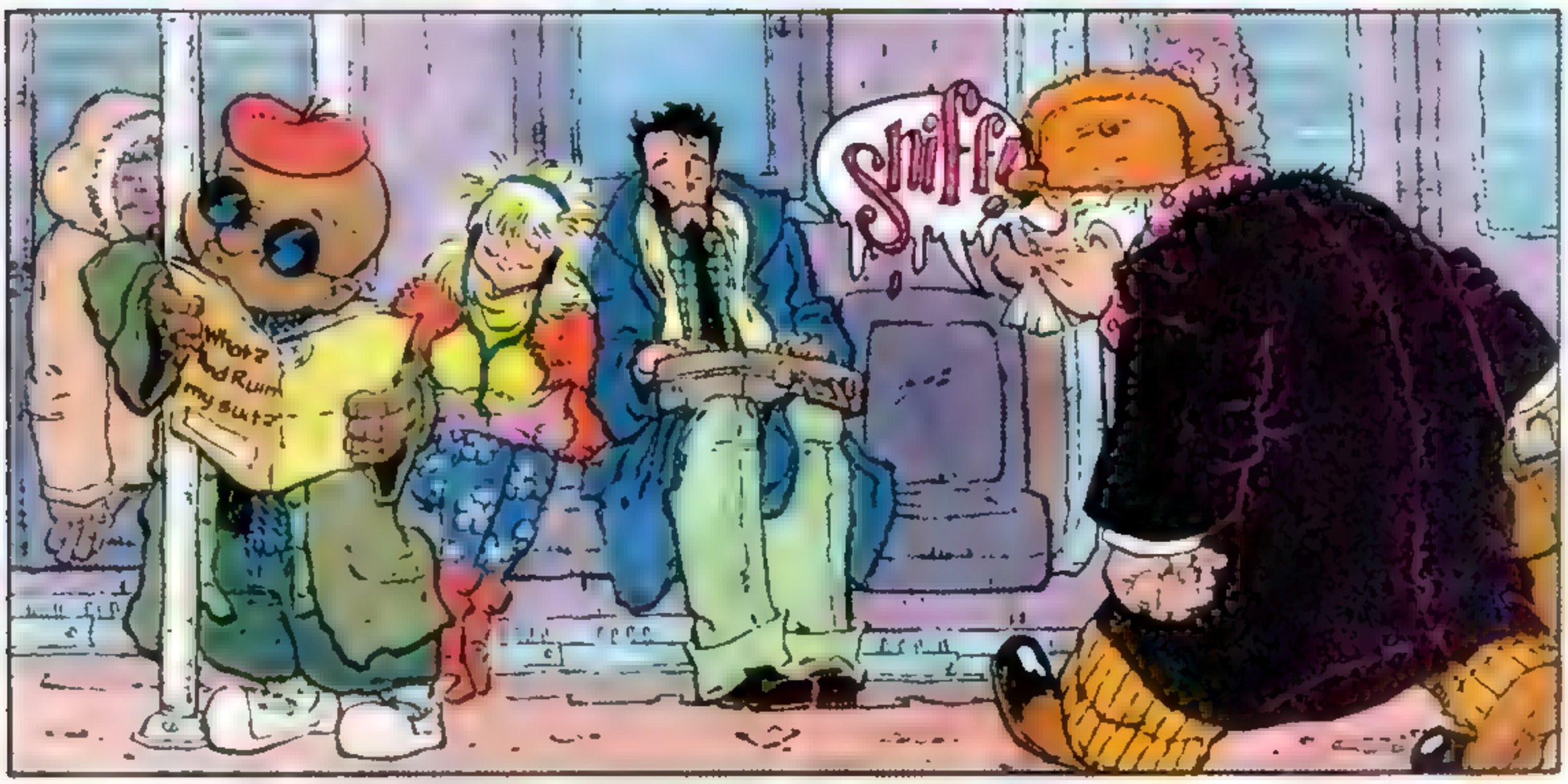
PLOK!

4.

Strangers On A Train...







MOVE OVER, MOVE OVER. COME ON. I'VE GOT A CARDIAC CONDITION. I'VE GOTTA SIT DOWN OR I'M GONNA DIE RIGHT HERE ON THIS TRAIN.

I KNOW HER FROM SOMEPLACE.

EXCUSE ME.

EXCUSE ME.

HMMM? OH YES?

I THINK THAT BLACK KID IS GOING TO MAKE A GRAB FOR YOUR PURSE.

I BEG YOUR PARDON?

THAT KID RIGHT THERE. HE'S BEEN STARING AT YOU. MY GUESS IS HE'S GOING TO MAKE THE SNATCH WHEN WE PULL INTO THE NEXT STATION.

OH...THANKS. I'LL WATCH OUT.

CAN'T BE TOO CAREFUL

UMM-HMMM.

HEY, KID--WHAT'S THAT COMIC BOOK YOU'RE READING?

WHAT'S IT TO YOU?

I JUST WANT TO SEE IT A SECOND. sniff!

HEY, MAN, YOU NUT?! GIMME MY BOOK!

Derivative garbage!

HERE. READ *THIS*. THIS IS WHAT COMIC BOOKS ARE SUPPOSED TO BE.

SPLENDIDMAN?! YOU'RE KIDDIN', RIGHT?

THEY'RE ALL ON DRUGS, YOU KNOW. *CRACK*.

I BEG YOUR PARDON?

CRACK. THEY'RE ALL HOOKED ON *CRACK*.

WHO?

BLACK KIDS. LIKE THAT ONE WHO'S AFTER YOUR PURSE

IF YOU SAY SO...

MY NAME'S HANK.

IF YOU SAY SO, HANK.

TELL THE TRUTH: ISN'T THIS GREAT STUFF?

NOPE.

AH, WHAT DO YOU KNOW. SPEND YOUR TIME READING COMIC BOOKS!

MAYBE, BUT I AIN'T CARRYIN' THEM AROUND IN NO BRIEFCASE.

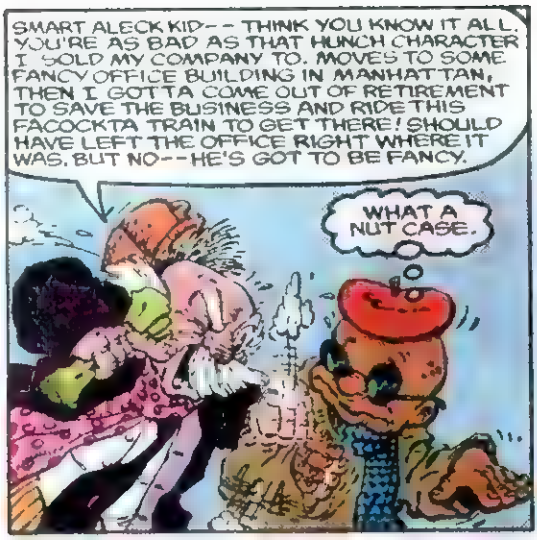
JUST GIVE ME BACK MY BOOK, HOTSHOT

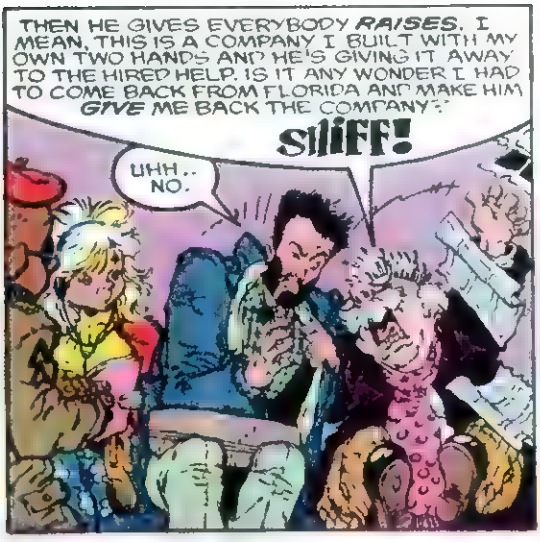
KRIP!

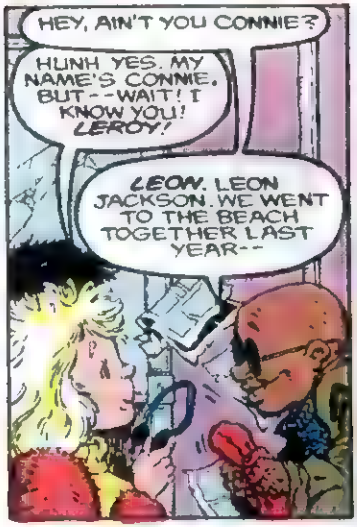
HEY! HOW AM I GOING TO SELL IT NOW?

WHAT'D I TELL YOU? THE KID'S HASSLING THAT OLD MAN.

WATCH OUT. HE'S GOING TO MAKE HIS MOVE

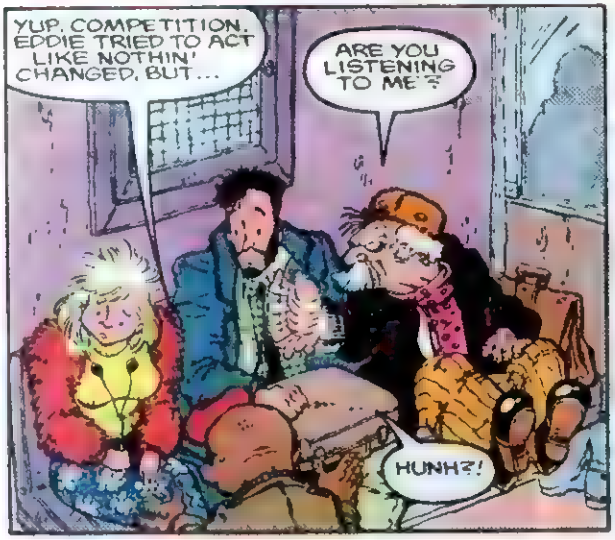

SMART ALECK KID-- THINK YOU KNOW IT ALL. YOU'RE AS BAD AS THAT HUNCH CHARACTER I SOLD MY COMPANY TO. MOVES TO SOME FANCY OFFICE BUILDING IN MANHATTAN, THEN I GOTTA COME OUT OF RETIREMENT TO SAVE THE BUSINESS AND RIDE THIS FACOCKTA TRAIN TO GET THERE! SHOULD HAVE LEFT THE OFFICE RIGHT WHERE IT WAS. BUT NO--HE'S GOT TO BE FANCY.
WHAT A NUT CASE.

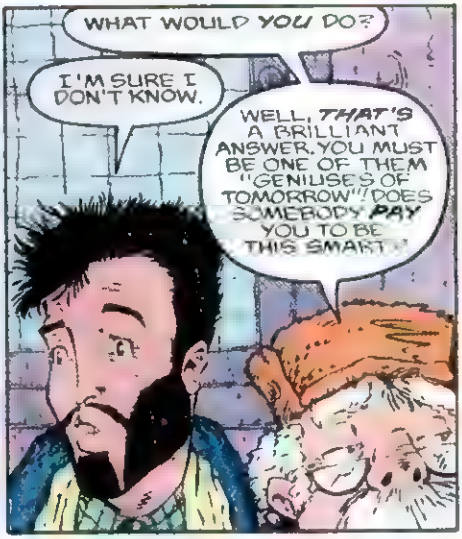

THEN HE GIVES EVERYBODY *RAISES*. I MEAN, THIS IS A COMPANY I BUILT WITH MY OWN TWO HANDS AND HE'S GIVING IT AWAY TO THE HIRED HELP. IS IT ANY WONDER I HAD TO COME BACK FROM FLORIDA AND MAKE HIM *GIVE* ME BACK THE COMPANY?
SHIFF!
UHH.. NO.


HEY, AIN'T YOU CONNIE?
HUNH YES. MY NAME'S CONNIE. BUT--WAIT! I KNOW YOU! *LEROY!*
LEON. LEON JACKSON. WE WENT TO THE BEACH TOGETHER LAST YEAR--

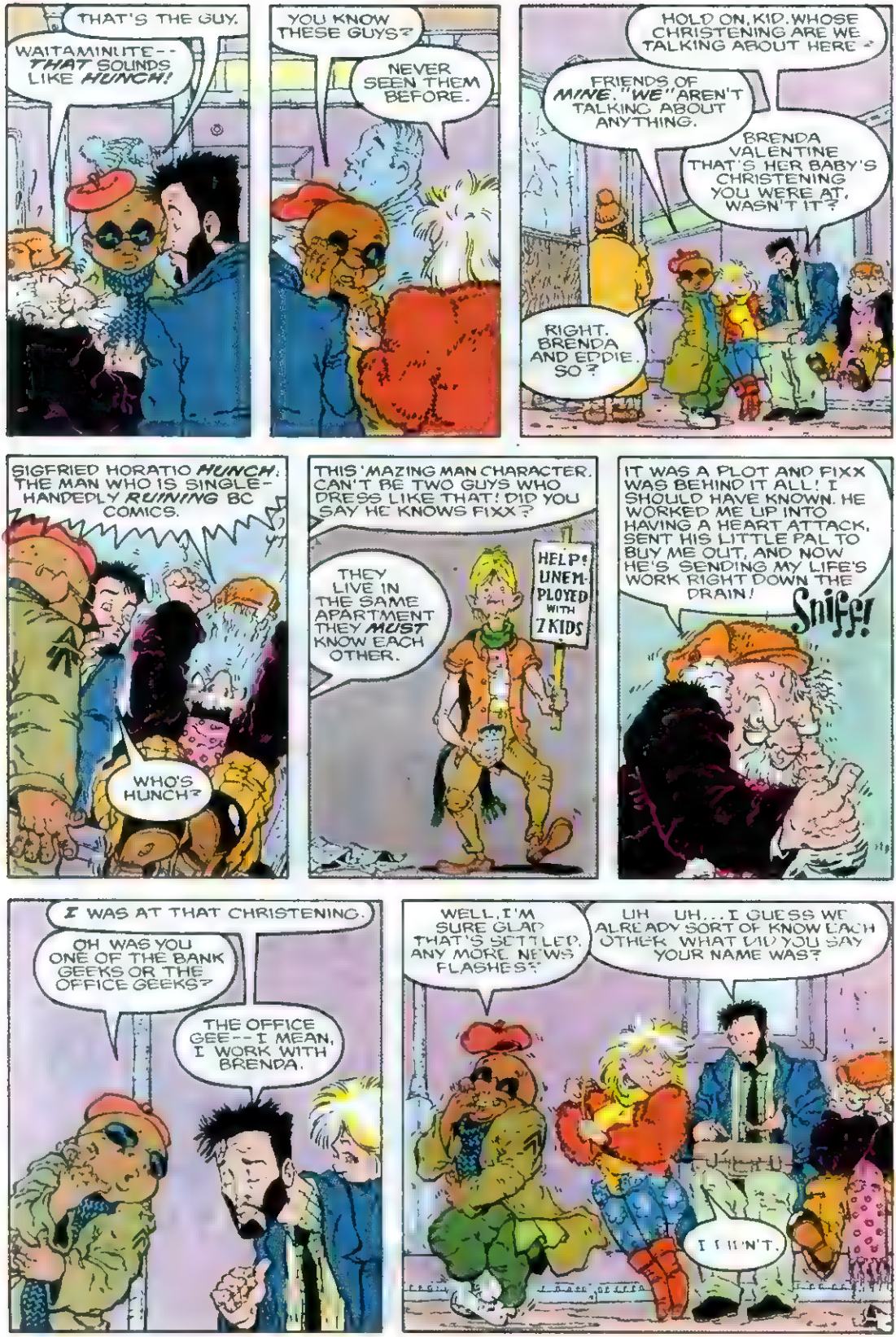
--WITH THAT BOYFRIEND O' YOURS WHO DROVE LIKE HE WAS IN THE INDY 500.
GUIDO. RIGHT. EDDIE IS YOUR "BIG BROTHER", RIGHT?
WAS.
Yip Yip Yip Yip Yip
Please Buy a PEN

OHH. WHAT HAPPENED?
THEY HAD A BABY.
YEAH. GUIDO TOLD ME


YUP. COMPETITION. EDDIE TRIED TO ACT LIKE NOTHIN' CHANGED. BUT...
ARE YOU LISTENING TO ME?
HUNH?!

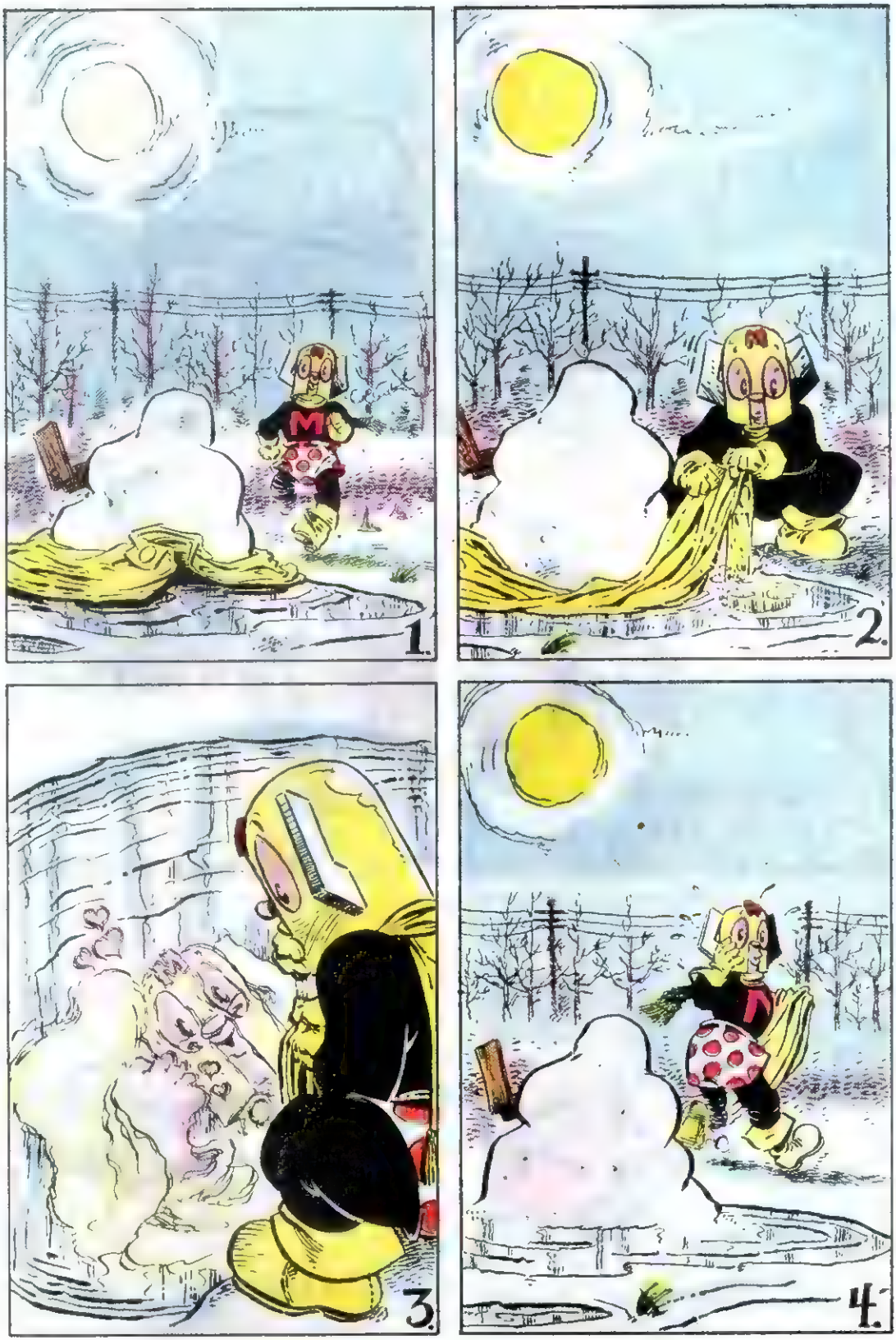

WHAT WOULD *YOU* DO?
I'M SURE I DON'T KNOW.
WELL, *THAT'S* A BRILLIANT ANSWER. YOU MUST BE ONE OF THEM "GENIUSES OF TOMORROW"! DOES SOMEBODY *PAY* YOU TO BE THIS SMART?

I AM AN ART DIRECTOR, SIR AND HIGHLY RESPECTED FOR MY SKILLS
OHH, AN ART DIRECTOR. I HAD A GUY WHO WORKED FOR ME ONCE WHO WANTED TO BE AN ART DIRECTOR. COULDN'T EXPLAIN WHAT IT WAS HE WAS SUPPOSED TO BE DOING, THOUGH.
YOU STILL GOING OUT WITH GUIDO?
EVERY NOW AND THEN. NOTHING SERIOUS. I TAKE IT YOU DON'T SEE EDDIE MUCH ANY MORE.
NAHH IT JUST DIDN'T WORK OUT AND IT WASN'T HIS FAULT, YA KNOW I MEAN, HE TRIED. EVEN INVITED ME TO THE KID'S CHRISTENING.
THAT WAS ABOUT THREE MONTHS AGO, WASN'T IT? I THINK GUIDO WANTED ME TO GO WITH HIM, BUT I WAS BUSY.
YOU DIDN'T MISS NOTHIN' UNLESS YOU GET A CHARGE WATCHIN' OLD FOLKS GET CRAZY
YOU SHOULDA SEEN EDDIE'S IN-LAWS WHEN I SHOWED UP THEY'RE THE KIND OF PEOPLE WHO THINK EVERY BLACK KID IN THE WORLD IS ON DRUGS AND OUT TO STEAL THEIR WALLETS.
HMPH
EDDIE WAS SO BUSY WITH RELATIVES, HE DIDN'T HAVE NO TIME FOR ME BUT THESE OLD FOLKS FOLLOWED ME ALL OVER-- WAITIN' TO CATCH ME POCKETING THE SILVERWARE. I GUESS
SIGH- IT'S A CRAZY WORLD.
BUT THAT WAS NOTHIN' COMPARED TO HOW THEY ACTED WHEN DENTON FIXX AND 'MAZING MAN SHOWED UP!
DENTON FIXX?
'MAZING MAN?
DID HE SAY "DENTON FIXX"?
Sniff!
AND 'MAZING MAN.
HEY, KID DENTON FIXX-- DOGGY-FACED LITTLE GUY?
YEAH SO?
'MAZING MAN WEARS A WEIRD HELMET ALL THE TIME? AND HIS UNDERSHORTS OUTSIDE HIS PANTS?


THAT'S THE GUY.
WAITAMINUTE-- THAT SOUNDS LIKE HUNCH!
YOU KNOW THESE GUYS?
NEVER SEEN THEM BEFORE.
HOLD ON, KID. WHOSE CHRISTENING ARE WE TALKING ABOUT HERE?
FRIENDS OF MINE. "WE" AREN'T TALKING ABOUT ANYTHING.
BRENDA VALENTINE THAT'S HER BABY'S CHRISTENING YOU WERE AT, WASN'T IT?
RIGHT. BRENDA AND EDDIE. SO?
SIGFRIED HORATIO HUNCH. THE MAN WHO IS SINGLE-HANDEDLY RUINING BC COMICS.
WHO'S HUNCH?
THIS 'MAZING MAN CHARACTER. CAN'T BE TWO GUYS WHO DRESS LIKE THAT! DID YOU SAY HE KNOWS FIXX?
THEY LIVE IN THE SAME APARTMENT THEY MUST KNOW EACH OTHER.
HELP! UNEMPLOYED WITH 7 KIDS
IT WAS A PLOT AND FIXX WAS BEHIND IT ALL! I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN. HE WORKED ME UP INTO HAVING A HEART ATTACK, SENT HIS LITTLE PAL TO BUY ME OUT, AND NOW HE'S SENDING MY LIFE'S WORK RIGHT DOWN THE DRAIN!
Sniff!
I WAS AT THAT CHRISTENING.
OH WAS YOU ONE OF THE BANK GEEKS OR THE OFFICE GEEKS?
THE OFFICE GEE-- I MEAN, I WORK WITH BRENDA.
WELL, I'M SURE GLAD THAT'S SETTLED. ANY MORE NEWS FLASHES?
UH UH... I GUESS WE ALREADY SORT OF KNOW EACH OTHER. WHAT DID YOU SAY YOUR NAME WAS?
I DIDN'T.

LAY OFF, MAN. HER BOYFRIEND'S BIG, MEAN, AND ITALIAN.
FIXX! JUST WAIT TILL I GET MY HANDS AROUND THAT LITTLE DOGGY NECK OF HIS!
SERIOUSLY, UH... I'D LIKE TO SEE YOU
YOU DEAF OR WHAT, MAN?
I CAN HANDLE THIS, LEON.
SO, WHAT DO YOU SAY?
NO.
HERE. I REALIZE THESE AREN'T THE BEST OF CIRCUMSTANCES TO MEET. HERE'S MY CARD. YOU CALL ME, OKAY?
HERE'S MY STOP. TAKE CARE, LEON.
WAIT. I DON'T EVEN KNOW YOUR NAME.
SO LONG, CO-- LORETTA!
LORETTA
PAGE & STILLWATER? FREDDY STILLWATER? HE USED TO RUN ADS IN MY BOOKS FOR JUNK LIKE SNEEZING POWDER AND X-RAY SPECS. HE STILL SELLING THAT STUFF?
Sniff.
I DON'T THINK SO
YOU TELL HIM BERNIE CORNFELDT SAID HELLO. TELL HIM I'LL STOP UP AND SEE HIM, CHEW OVER THE OLD DAYS.
Sigh.
YOU DESIGN THIS?
AS A MATTER OF FACT, YES!
WAIT'LL I TALK TO FREDDY. I GOT PLENTY OF GUYS WHO CAN DO THIS STUFF--PROBABLY FOR A LOT LESS THAN YOU'RE GETTING! LOTS CHEAPER--EVEN WITH A COMMISSION FOR ME!

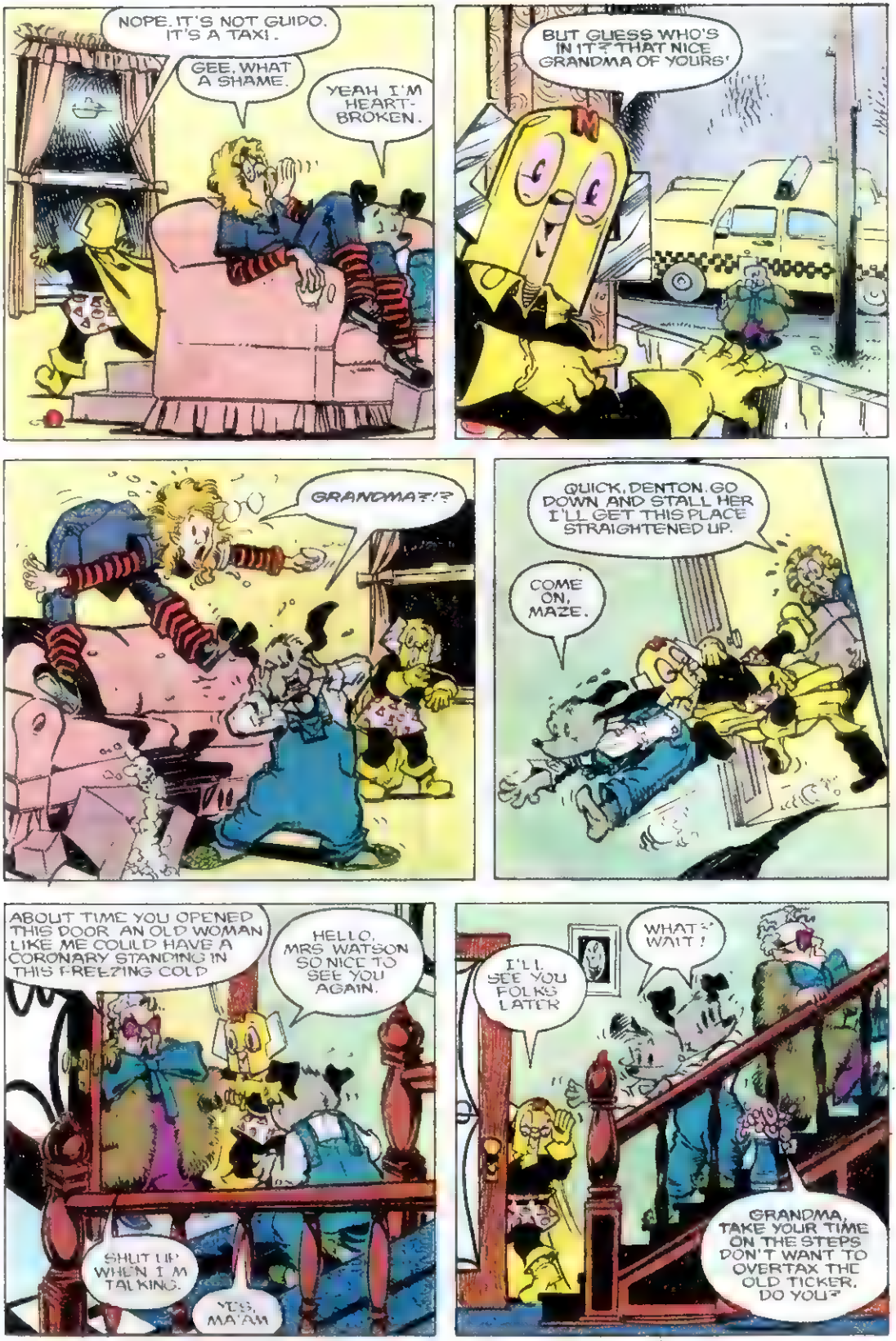
I DON'T THINK.
PROBABLY NOT, BUT I DO.
JAY STREET
YOU TELL HIM HE'LL BE HEARING FROM ME. OR ABOUT ME, WHEN I STRANGLE FIXX!
REMEMBER. BERNIE CORNFELDT. YOU TELL FREDDY AND--
--ARE YOU CRAZY?! I'VE GOT A CARDIAC CONDITION. YOU TRYING TO MAKE ME HAVE ANOTHER HEART ATTACK?
DON'T LOOK AT ME, MAN. I DIDN'T DO NOTHIN'.
DON'T TALK TO ME.
NOT IF YOU PAID ME.
STIFF.

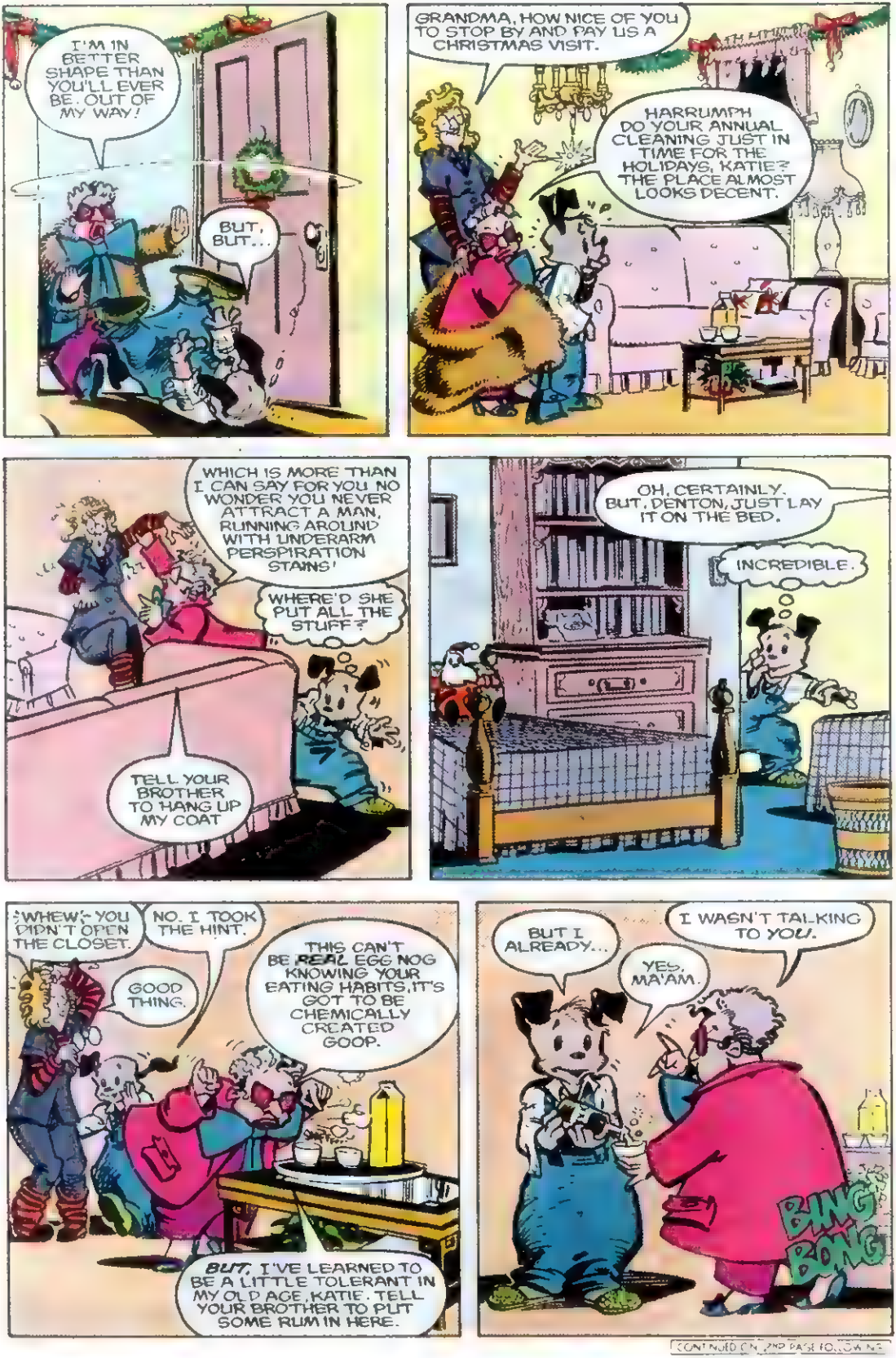

1.
2.
3.
4.

--AND TRAFFIC THIS CHRISTMAS EVE IS EXTREMELY HEAVY OUTBOUND ON THE BELT PARKWAY, WITH DELAYS NEAR JFK AIRPORT.
MAN, I BETTER TAKE MY SECRET BACK ROUTE TO COUSIN SAL'S.
REMEMBER, YOU CAN KEEP THE HOLIDAY CASUALTIES DOWN BY BUCKLING UP.
THANKS FOR TAKING ME SHOPPING, GUIDO.
'EY, THAT'S THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT, BUCKETHEAD.
YES, AND SO IS THE OTHER THING YOU AGREED TO DO. I'LL HAVE THE SANTA SUIT ALL READY FOR YOU WHEN YOU GET BACK.
NO PROBLEM AND I'LL LUG IN ALL THIS LOOT FOR YOU WHEN I GET HERE.
ONE OF THEM'S GOT YOUR NAME ON IT. NO FAIR SHAKING IT TO GET A HINT.
'EY, WHAT KINDA GUY YOU THINK I AM? IF I WANNA KNOW WHAT'S INSIDE, I GOT A PAL AT FRANKLIN GENERAL WHO CAN X-RAY IT FOR ME.
OKAY, GUIDO THANKS AGAIN, AND--
--AND CLOSE THE DOOR. I CAN'T GET BACK IF I CAN'T GET GONE! BESIDES, YER LETTIN' ALL THE HEAT OUT!
OH, SORRY
THIS WILL BE THE BEST CHRISTMAS EVER.
--AND AT 4:37 P.M., HERE'S THE TRASH EATERZ VOCALIZING "SILENT NIGHT".
♪ YO, IT'S A SILENT NIGHT, A HOLY NIGHT.. ♪

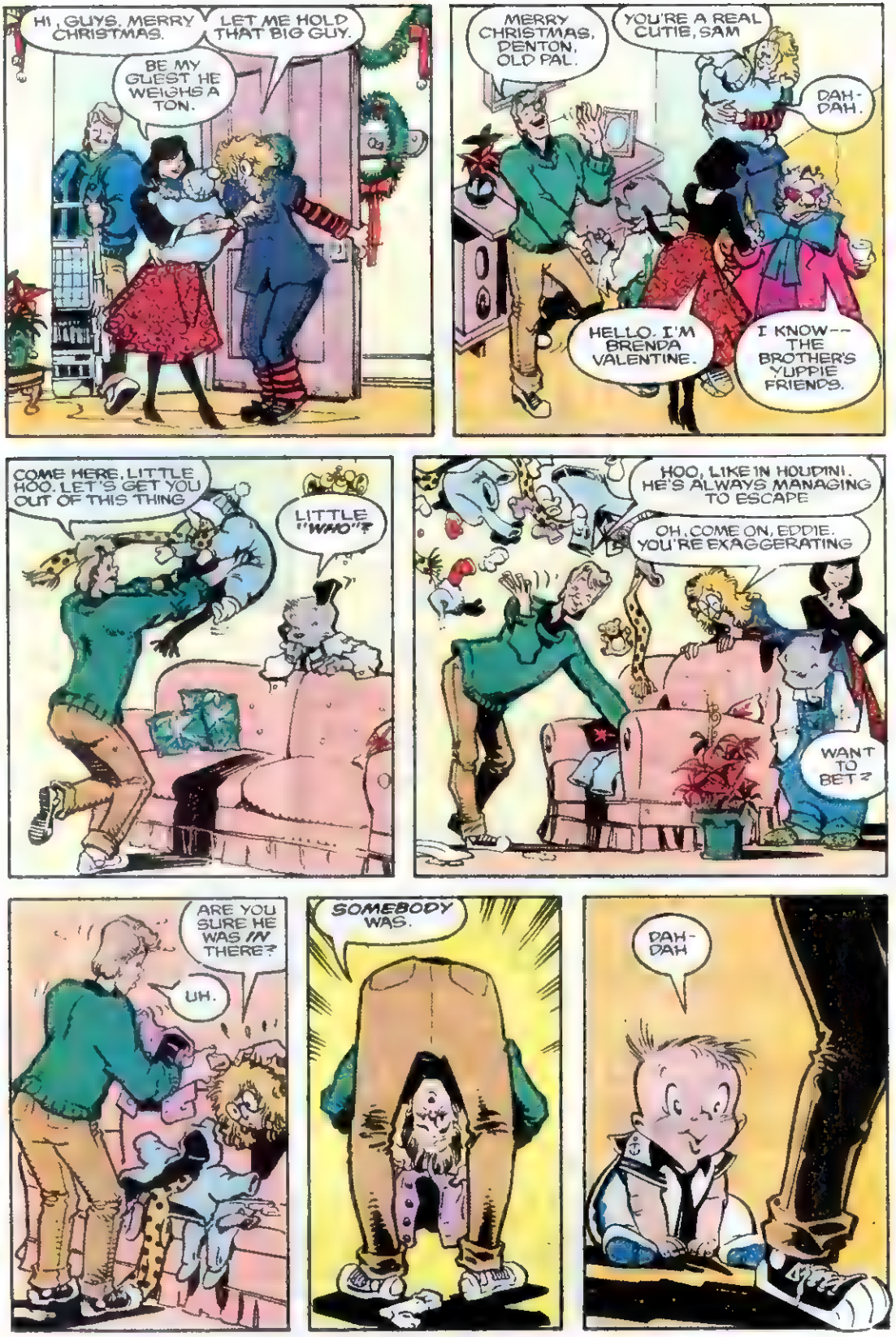
♫ ... IN A TEN-HORSEPOWER ♪ CHEVEEE. ♪ ♫
WZZZ CHRISTMAS CHIME TIME IS 6'46 IN THE P.M. AND THAT WAS TIER 22 WITH "JINGLE BELLS '87".
CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE
WHEW! FINALLY FINISHED.
GOOD CAN WE SWITCH TO A DIFFERENT RADIO STATION. NOW?
ONLY IF YOU BRING ME SOMETHING TO DRINK.
YOUR WISH IS MY COMMAND, DEAR SISTER. ANYTHING TO SWITCH OFF THAT NOISE.
EGG NOG?
I'M NOT GOING TO MOVE TILL TOMORROW AT LEAST.
NATWITY
THEN YOU'RE READY FOR THE SUPER-DUPER DOUBLE RUM EGG NOG.
I'M BACK LIKE THIS NEAT WREATH I GOT US?
SWELL.
XMAS STUFF
LIGHTS
EVERYTHING HAS TO BE JUST SO.
NICE TREE.
THANKS, YOU COULD HAVE HELPED.
I KNOW. I'M SORRY I WAS BUSY.
BRENDA AND EDDIE WILL BE HERE REAL SOON... WITH BABY SAM.
DOUBLE SWELL.
DON'T BOTHER. BRENDA AND EDDIE ARE FRIENDS. THEY UNDERSTAND CLUTTER.
I CAN HELP YOU CLEAN UP
NATWITY

BACK IN A MINUTE. GOT SOMETHING I'VE GOT TO DO
GREAT EGG NOG, DENTON.
HE'S UP TO SOMETHING.
TRIPLE SWELL.
WON'T EVERYBODY BE SURPRISED WHEN SANTA CLAUS PUTS IN A SURPRISE APPEARANCE?
XMAS THINGS
XMAS STUFF
SANTA SUIT
I WONDER IF GUIDO'S HOME YET. IT'S GETTING LATE
GOD REST YE, MERRY GENTLEMEN.
DENTON, HOW CAN YOU LISTEN TO THAT STUFF? IT'S SO... OLD-FASHIONED.
TRADITIONAL, KP. HOW CAN IT COMPARE WITH THE TRASH COMPACTORS?
TRASH EATER?.. WITH A "Z" JOIN THE 80'S, WILL YOU?
NOBODY HOME. SURE HOPE HE DIDN'T HAVE AN ACCIDENT.
SANTA SUIT
ORNAMENTS
LIGHTS
ANYBODY SEEN GUIDO?
NOPE. HIS CHRISTMAS PRESENT TO ME WAS THAT I DON'T HAVE TO SEE HIM TILL SUNDAY.
I'LL DRINK TO THAT! SLURP!
SKREEECH
THAT SOUNDS LIKE A FAMILIAR SKREEECH!


NOPE. IT'S NOT GUIDO. IT'S A TAXI.
GEE, WHAT A SHAME.
YEAH I'M HEART-BROKEN.
BUT GUESS WHO'S IN IT? THAT NICE GRANDMA OF YOURS'
GRANDMA?!?
QUICK, DENTON. GO DOWN AND STALL HER I'LL GET THIS PLACE STRAIGHTENED UP.
COME ON, MAZE.
ABOUT TIME YOU OPENED THIS DOOR AN OLD WOMAN LIKE ME COULD HAVE A CORONARY STANDING IN THIS FREEZING COLD
HELLO, MRS WATSON SO NICE TO SEE YOU AGAIN.
SHUT UP WHEN I M TALKING.
YES, MA'AM
I'LL SEE YOU FOLKS LATER
WHAT? WAIT!
GRANDMA, TAKE YOUR TIME ON THE STEPS DON'T WANT TO OVERTAX THE OLD TICKER, DO YOU?


I'M IN BETTER SHAPE THAN YOU'LL EVER BE. OUT OF MY WAY!
BUT, BUT...
GRANDMA, HOW NICE OF YOU TO STOP BY AND PAY US A CHRISTMAS VISIT.
HARRUMPH DO YOUR ANNUAL CLEANING JUST IN TIME FOR THE HOLIDAYS, KATIE? THE PLACE ALMOST LOOKS DECENT.
WHICH IS MORE THAN I CAN SAY FOR YOU. NO WONDER YOU NEVER ATTRACT A MAN, RUNNING AROUND WITH UNDERARM PERSPIRATION STAINS!
WHERE'D SHE PUT ALL THE STUFF?
TELL YOUR BROTHER TO HANG UP MY COAT
OH, CERTAINLY. BUT, DENTON, JUST LAY IT ON THE BED.
INCREDIBLE.
WHEW! - YOU DIDN'T OPEN THE CLOSET.
NO. I TOOK THE HINT.
GOOD THING.
THIS CAN'T BE REAL EGG NOG KNOWING YOUR EATING HABITS, IT'S GOT TO BE CHEMICALLY CREATED GOOP.
BUT, I'VE LEARNED TO BE A LITTLE TOLERANT IN MY OLD AGE, KATIE. TELL YOUR BROTHER TO PUT SOME RUM IN HERE.
BUT I ALREADY...
I WASN'T TALKING TO YOU.
YES, MA'AM.
BING BONG

CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE TO...OH NO

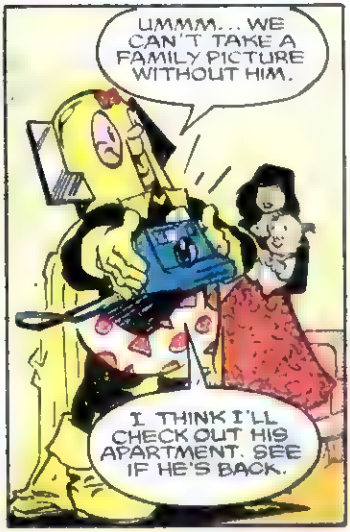

HI, GUYS. MERRY CHRISTMAS.
LET ME HOLD THAT BIG GUY.
BE MY GUEST HE WEIGHS A TON.
MERRY CHRISTMAS, DENTON, OLD PAL.
YOU'RE A REAL CUTIE, SAM
DAH-DAH.
HELLO. I'M BRENDA VALENTINE.
I KNOW-- THE BROTHER'S YUPPIE FRIENDS.
COME HERE, LITTLE HOO. LET'S GET YOU OUT OF THIS THING
LITTLE "WHO"?
HOO, LIKE IN HOUDINI. HE'S ALWAYS MANAGING TO ESCAPE
OH, COME ON, EDDIE. YOU'RE EXAGGERATING
WANT TO BET?
ARE YOU SURE HE WAS IN THERE?
UH.
SOMEBODY WAS.
DAH-DAH

THERE'S MY GUY!
HARRUMPH! YUPPIE PARENTS! WHY, WHEN I WAS RAISING MY CHILDREN...

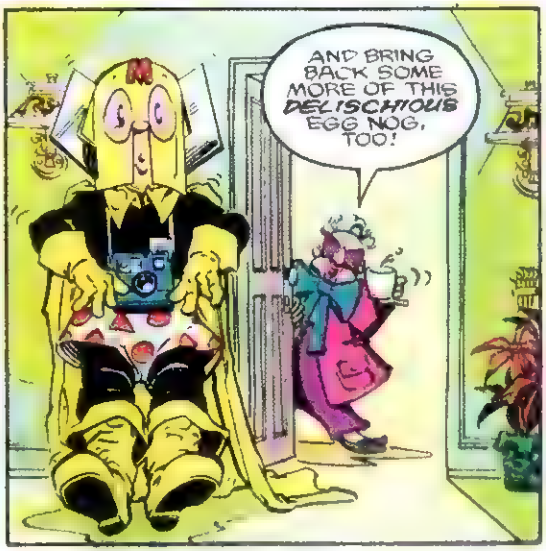
HI! GUESS WHO I MET OUTSIDE? OFFICER CALLAHAN, BUDDY, AND MR. WARWINSKI.
I TOLD THEM WE WERE SORT OF HAVING AN OPEN HOUSE.
I GUESS WE ARE NOW!

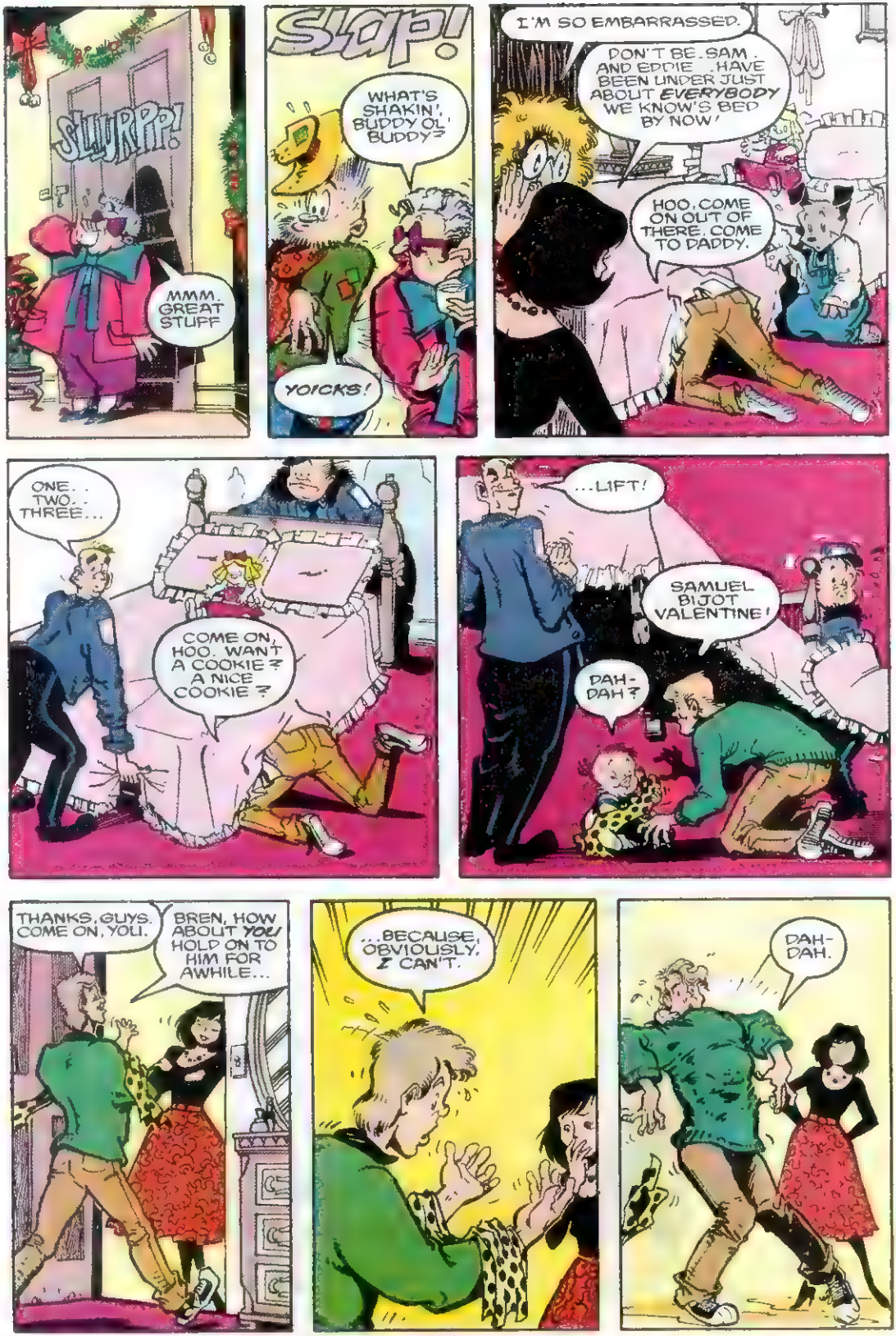
DAH-DAH.
TEE-HEE, NO I'M NOT DAH-DAH, SAM. I'M UNCLE 'MAZING MAN.
I CAN'T WAIT FOR GUIDO TO GET HERE.

AND JUST WHY ARE WE WAITING FOR GUIDO?


UMMM... WE CAN'T TAKE A FAMILY PICTURE WITHOUT HIM.
I THINK I'LL CHECK OUT HIS APARTMENT. SEE IF HE'S BACK.

MAZE, WHILE YOU'RE OUT, GET SOME MORE SNACKS
OKAY.
DAH-DAH.
KITCHIE-KOO.


AND BRING BACK SOME MORE OF THIS DELISCHIOUS EGG NOG, TOO!


SLURPP!
MMM. GREAT STUFF
Slap!
WHAT'S SHAKIN', BUDDY OL' BUDDY?
YOICKS!
I'M SO EMBARRASSED.
DON'T BE. SAM AND EDDIE HAVE BEEN UNDER JUST ABOUT EVERYBODY WE KNOW'S BED BY NOW!
HOO, COME ON OUT OF THERE. COME TO DADDY.
ONE.. TWO.. THREE...
COME ON, HOO. WANT A COOKIE? A NICE COOKIE?
...LIFT!
SAMUEL BIJOT VALENTINE!
DAH-DAH?
THANKS, GUYS. COME ON, YOU.
BREN, HOW ABOUT YOU HOLD ON TO HIM FOR AWHILE...
...BECAUSE, OBVIOUSLY, I CAN'T.
DAH-DAH.

I'M BACK.
OOH, NEAT TRICK, EDDIE BUT AREN'T YOU AFRAID SAM WILL GET HURT?
HE GETS LOTS OF PRACTICE, MAZE ANY SIGN OF GUIDO?
NOT YET. BUT LOOK WHO I MET AT FOODSMART.
THE WHOLE TIRADO FAMILY--EXCEPT HELENITA, WHO'S HOME WITH A BABYSITTER--SEÑOR AND SEÑORA TIRADO, JUANITA, JUAN AND CARLOS.
FOOD SMART
FELIZ NAVIDAD.
THIS IS REALLY NICE, MAZE, BUT EDDIE AND I ARE EXPECTED AT HIS PARENTS' IN A LITTLE WHILE.
BUENOS NOCHES, SEÑORA
HELLO, BOYS.
NOT TO WORRY. GUIDO WILL BE HERE ANY MINUTE.
WHAT POLITE YOUNG MEN. REMIND ME OF MY OWN SONS WHEN THEY WERE YOUR AGE. HOW ABOUT A KISS FOR GRANDMA?
SMOK
SMOK
JUAN! CARLOS! ACT LIKE MEN!
YUCH.
BLECCH.
I JUST LOVE A STRONG FATHER FIGURE.
SMOK
CARAMBA!

I'LL GO LOOK FOR GUIDO AGAIN, BRENDA. JUST A FEW MORE MINUTES, OKAY?
IF YOU SAY SO.
BREN-- I THOUGHT YOU HAD HOO.
I THOUGHT YOU HAD HIM.
I HANDED HIM TO YOU.
HOO! WHERE ARE YOU, HOO?
HOOT
♪ JINGLE BELLS, JINGLE BELLS... ♪
YOU KIDS MAKE A MEAN EGG NOG.
BUT IT COULD USE A LITTLE ICE.
STAY RIGHT THERE. I'LL GET IT.
Slap
WHAT'S IN THIS STUFF?
WE CAN'T FIND SAM.
WE'VE LOOKED EVERYWHERE.
CALM DOWN HE'S GOT TO BE HERE SOMEWHERE.

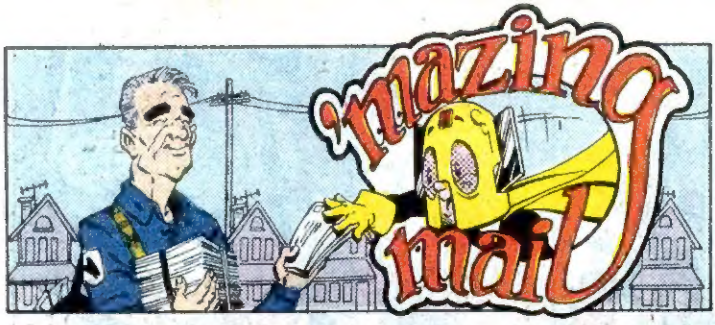
COOKIE
IT'S OKAY, MRS. WATSON I'VE GOT HIM
HOO, HOW DID YOU GET UP THERE?
IIICE!
AHHH.
HONEY, WE'VE GOT TO GO
I KNOW
OOPS, SORRY, ED.
YOU'RE NOT LEAVING YET?
WE'VE GOT TO, MAZE MY FOLKS..
BUT LOOK WHO'S HERE!
♪ DECK THE HALLS WITH BOUGHS OF HOLLY... ♪
COME ON, YOU CAN STAY A FEW MORE MINUTES.
WELL..
I DON'T WANT TO HEAR ABOUT IT WHEN YOUR MOTHER STARTS WHINING ABOUT US BEING LATE, EDWARD.

♫ ♫ I FEEL PRETTY ♫
YOU LITTLE DICKENS, WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
OH, YOU ARE A SPEEDY LITTLE FELLA.
COME BACK HERE.
COME TO GRANDMA.
THERE YOU ARE!
NO! NO CLOSET!
SLAMM
I SHOULD GET YOU AND YOUR FATHER VELCRO SHIRTS. THEN YOU'D BE STUCK TO HIM ALL THE TIME.

OPEN WIDE. OH, HAVEN'T BRUSHED YOUR TEETH THIS MONTH, EH?
MAYBE HE'S HAD AN ACCIDENT. MAYBE I SHOULD CALL THE HOSPITALS.
YO--- BUCKET-HEAD.
HUNH?
GUIDO, WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN? EVERYBODY'S BEEN WAITING.
'EY, I TOLDJA I WAS VISITIN' THE RELATIVES.
BUT YOU'VE BEEN GONE SO LONG.
I GOT LOTSA RELATIVES.
DIDN'T I SEE THAT MAN'S PICTURE IN THE POST OFFICE?
BIG G!
UNCLE LOUIE?
GREAT, YOU'RE HERE! COME ON, MAZE, LET'S GET THIS PICTURE TAKEN SO BRENDA AND I CAN HIT THE ROAD.
SURE THING, EDDIE. GUIDO-- HELP ME FIND THE FILM FOR THE CAMERA.
UMMPH!
FASTER, GUIDO. PEOPLE ARE WAITING.

TIME'S UP, MAZE
JUST ONE MORE MINUTE, BRENDA. IT'S ON THE BED, GUIDO.
THERE AIN'T NOTHIN' ON THE BED BUT A UGLY FUR COAT... AND I AIN'T EVEN TOUCHIN' THAT!
WHAT?
PLACES FOR THE PICTURE, EVERYBODY!
YOU, TOO, MAZE.
DAH-DAH.
I LOOKED ALL OVER, BUCKETHEAD. I DIDN'T SEE NO SLUIT.
SIGH - YOU TRIED, GUIDO. LET'S TAKE THE PICTURE AND GIVE OUT THE PRESENTS.
SNAP IT UP, PEOPLE!
OKAY, EVERYBODY SAY "CHEESE!"
WAIT A MINUTE! IT'S TOO QUIET IN HERE.
WHERE'S GRANDMA?

HOHOHO-- HERE I AM.
LOOK, EVERY-BODY-- IT'S SANTA!
EGG NOG FOR EVERYBODY!
LET'S SEE WHAT'S IN SANTA'S SACK.
HOHOHO.
DAH-DAH?
OKAY, EVERYBODY SAY "DAH-DAH!"
...AND TO ALL A GOOD NIGHT.



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L-3086

DEJA VU DEPARTMENT: I think it's about twenty minutes before this 'MAZING MAN SPECIAL is due to the separators. Editor Barbara Randall comes in and says, "Is there room for a text page?" I check the ad schedule and reply in the affirmative. "Then don't you think you better write it?" she demands. We've done this routine before, I realize, back when 'MAZING MAN SPECIAL #1 was in the works. Reliving it to the completion, I write the text page.

* * * * *

Dear DC,

When I heard there was going to be a 'MAZING MAN SPECIAL, I was overjoyed. No, make that enthusiastic. They were bringing back one of my favorite comics. Who cares if it's only a SPECIAL; at least it's a start. And then I heard about the CHRISTMAS SPECIAL. "O'boy!" I exclaimed. My mouth watered.

And then it hit me. Why isn't there a monthly comic again? After all, "Brenda's Story" got eleven votes for favorite story in the Comics Buyer's Guide Awards. And 'MAZING MAN got 68 votes for favorite comic, ranking twelfth and beating out such distinguished books as GRENDEL, MAGE, and (can you believe it?) DARK KNIGHT. And 'Maze was voted the seventh favorite character!

C'mon, guys, show the little guy some respect. Give him a monthly comic again.

MARK SEYB
3213 Silva St.
Lakewood, CA 90712

On a similar note, 'Mazing Man placed second (behind Wolverine) in the Character Most Deserving of His Own Series category in this year's Eagle Awards in England.

* * * * *

Dear Barbara and Crew,

When I read the 'MAZING MAN SPECIAL, my reaction was "What have they done to the artwork?" Then I remembered: "Always add, always walk, always proceed." Then I thought. Then I read the book again. Then I smiled.

The artwork of Stephen DeStefano is, as always, as fresh as the book itself. No one else would be able to match his style and tone. In short—I love it.

STEPHEN McALLISTER
14 Bevere Drive
Bevere, Worcester WR3 7QE
England

A number of people commented on what they perceived as the fault of inker Craig Boldman for the difference in the art on the SPECIAL and that in the regular book. But it was actually Stephen's pencilling that made those changes. Stephen's style is still evolving and, as a result, the characters in 'MAZING MAN are changing with him.

* * * * *

Dear 'Mazing People,

It was great to see 'Mazing Man out again. It's too bad the regular series got cancelled, but I'm looking forward to the Christmas Special.

While the SPECIAL was well-written and the series has a feeling all its own, the only problem was the $2.00 cover price. Why, when other 48-page issues cost $1.50?

MICHAEL MARZ
313 N. 3rd Ave. W #1
Duluth, MN 55806

The print run on 'MAZING MAN SPECIALs is substantially lower than that of most other DC titles, Mike. Therefore, the cost per copy for production and printing is higher, resulting in our having to charge a higher price. Nothing would make us happier than having our audience triple in size and be able to lower the price. Till that time, we're hoping 'Maze fans feel he's worth the extra half a buck.

* * * * *

Dear Bob,

I really liked the nurse on page 34. She looks like Bill Sienkiewicz's version of the Incredible Bulk in drag.

CHARLIE HARRIS
Tucson, AZ

What's really weird is that that same nurse appeared in one of the issues of THE SHADOW that Bill did ... and neither he nor Stephen knew of the similarity.

* * * * *

THANKS FOR WRITING DEPARTMENT: As always, we'd like to thank those of you who wrote. We all read your letters and love to hear from you. In this pile of mail are letters from Marc Davis, Hurricane Heeran, F. Sirotkin, Charles D. Brown, Shawn Granger, Jim Boehme, Jeff Hank, and Nat Gertler. (Plus, Nat sent us a copy of a fanzine he did taking a humorous look at 'Maze, and including his version of how other artists might interpret our hero.)

Dear 'Mazing Ones,

A word about Brenda. I think I know her. Well, not exactly. I know a girl named Brenda who looks and sometimes behaves like Brenda. Furthermore, Brenda and Eddie remind me of the characters of the same names in an old Billy Joel song. And these three Brendas remind me somewhat of Brenda Patimkin in Philip Roth's *Goodbye, Columbus*, even though friend Brenda and Brenda Valentine are dark-haired and nicer. My questions are: 1) Were you inspired by Billy Joel's "Scenes from an Italian Restaurant"? and 2) Do you think the similarity of Brendas is a plot?

SIMON DelMONTE
Forest Hills, NY

1) Stephen says the names came from the song (he liked the ring of them), but the characters themselves were based on friends of his (who were not named Brenda and Eddie). The Valentines have since evolved into a conglomerate of his friends and most of the married couples I know.

2) I don't know. Keep an eye on your friend and see if she starts talking to issues of 'MAZING MAN. Or develops some secret handshake.

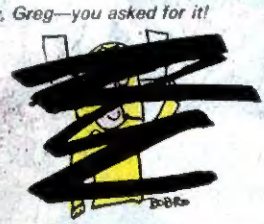
* * * * *

Bob,

Obviously, your 'Maze drawing on the bottom of SPECIAL #1's text was inked by one of the powerhouse artists of the industry. Who was it? Karl? Terry Austin? Murphy Anderson? Klaus Janson? What's that? You did it all by yourself? Wow! What a multi-talented fellow you are! We must see more.

GREG W. MYERS
Elida, OH

Okay, Greg—you asked for it!



And I deleted it! Don't torture the fans *again*, Bob!

* * * * *

That's it till our next special ... if there is one. Till then, see you in the comic books.

—BOB ROZAKIS